



## Statement of Values Policy

Mount Eliza Secondary College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be our primary focus of our care and decision making. Additionally, as an accredited International Baccalaureate (IB) School, our values also reflect the IB Mission Statement and the attributes of the Learner Profile.

### IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school.

### POLICY

Mount Eliza Secondary College is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents and carers to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

This policy outlines our school's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our staff induction handbook and upon request at Administration. To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we:

- display posters and banners that promote our values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

### VISION

Mount Eliza Secondary College's vision is to create a collaborative and personalised approach which supports students and staff as active learners. We work to empower students to be their best by questioning their experiences, expressing themselves with confidence and participating in local, national and global communities. As an International Baccalaureate World School, we focus on building internationally minded students that are:

***balanced, caring, risk-takers, principled, thinkers, communicators, open-minded, reflective, knowledgeable and inquirers.***

## MISSION

At Mount Eliza Secondary College our motto is *'Educated for excellence, Prepared for life'* and this is reflected in the setting of high expectations for students, staff and our community. Our motto is embedded within our mission statement:

***'At Mount Eliza Secondary College, we are dedicated to fostering a vibrant and inclusive learning environment where every student is educated for excellence, prepared for life and empowered to contribute to a better and more peaceful world.'***

## OBJECTIVE

As a smaller secondary school setting, we use our knowledge of, and close relationships with our students to focus on a learning experience that is both challenging and supportive. The same approach is applied to all members of staff whose work environment reflects an expectation for life-long learning.

In preparing students for their future, opportunities to make improvements in the way in which they go about their learning and interact with others is specifically taught, reflected upon and further developed.

## VALUES

Our driving values are ***Happy, Smart, Prepared.***

We want all of our students to be HAPPY, SMART and PREPARED. HAPPY to be a student here at the college, wanting to attend, be actively involved in all of the many opportunities available and making others around them HAPPY too. We want to see students be their SMART. To put in the effort academically to achieve growth in skills and knowledge while making SMART choices in being a caring and positive human. We want to see students PREPARED to learn. To be organised each day and have pride to wear the MESC uniform, have materials to be effective learners and be PREPARED to have a go, stand up for what is right and work hard to attain goals and dreams.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Mount Eliza Secondary College acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture. We acknowledge a shared responsibility to create a positive learning environment for the children and young people at our school.

As principals and school leaders we will:

- model positive and effective leadership
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe behaviour is expected of everyone
- behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide safe and inclusive environments
- plan, implement and review our work to ensure the care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students at school
- identify and support students who are or may be at risk
- do our best to ensure every child achieves their personal and learning potential
- work with parents to understand their child's needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
- respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required
- ask any person who is acting in an offensive, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate way to leave the school grounds

As teachers and non-teaching school staff, we will:

- model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession
  - communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
  - proactively engage with parents about student outcomes
  - work with parents to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly
  - work collaboratively with parents to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for students with additional needs
- communicate with the principal and school leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents
  - treat all members of the school community with respect.

As parents and carers, we will:

- model positive behaviour to our child
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- ensure our child attends school on time, every day the school is open for instruction
- take an interest in our child's school and learning
- work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child
- communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns
- support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students
- follow the school's processes for communication with staff and making complaints
- treat all school leaders, staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.

As students, we will:

- model positive behaviour to other students
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the school community
- comply with and model school values
- behave in a safe and responsible manner
- respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment
- actively participate in school
- not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

As community members, we will:

- model positive behaviour to the school community
- treat other members of the school community with respect
- support school staff to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students

## **UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS**

Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school grounds.

Unreasonable behaviour that is demonstrated by school staff, parents, carers, students or members of our school community will not be tolerated at school, or during school activities.

Unreasonable behaviour includes:

- speaking or behaving in a rude, manipulative, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via electronic communication or social media, or over the telephone

- the use or threat of violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic or derogatory comments
- the use of social media or public forums to make inappropriate or threatening remarks about the school, staff or students.

Harassment, bullying, violence, aggression, threatening behaviour and unlawful discrimination are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at our school.

Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this Statement of Values and School Philosophy may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences by the school Principal.

At the Principal's discretion, unreasonable behaviour may be managed by:

- requesting that the parties attend a mediation or counselling sessions
- implementing specific communication protocols
- written warnings
- conditions of entry to school grounds or school activities
- exclusion from school grounds or attendance at school activities
- reports to Victoria Police
- legal action

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in according with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*.

Our *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* ensures that everyone in our school community will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we will strive to create a school that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was endorsed/approved by the Mount Eliza Secondary College Council on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/2024 for review if legislative or other changes require in the interim or no later than December 2028.

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Principal Signature

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School Council President Signature